



## **Proposed Amendment To The Kentucky Constitution November 6, 2018**

### **Crime Victims' Rights**

On November 6, 2018, Kentucky's voters will be asked whether to amend the state Constitution to provide Kentucky crime victims constitutional rights and protections.

The following question will appear on the ballot.

#### **Constitutional Amendment**

Are you in favor of providing constitutional rights to victims of crime, including the right to be treated fairly, with dignity and respect, and the right to be informed and to have a voice in the judicial process?

### **Constitutional Changes Proposed By The Amendment**

The proposed amendment would add a new section to the Constitution of Kentucky that would create constitutional rights for victims of crime, including the right to be notified of proceedings, the right to be present and to testify, and the right to safety and privacy, as well as standing in the court system to enforce these rights.

### **Brief History**

In 1983, Marsalee (Marsy) Nicholas, a University of California, Santa Barbara student, was stalked and killed by her ex-boyfriend. A week after Marsy was murdered, her mother walked into a grocery store and was confronted by the accused murderer. She did not know that he had been released on bail.

Marsy's family later campaigned to amend California's constitution to include crime victims' rights. Marsy's Law was approved by California voters in 2008, and has subsequently passed in North Dakota, South Dakota, Illinois, and Ohio.

In all of these states, courts must consider the safety of victims and their families when setting bail and release conditions. Family members of victims have the right to be heard at hearings that involve bail, plea, sentencing, and parole.

Similar measures are slated to be on the ballot this November in Florida, Georgia, Nevada, North Carolina, and Oklahoma.

### **Where To Vote**

Contact your County Clerk to find out where you go to cast your vote. Polling places are located throughout your community. Where you cast your vote is determined by the address of your place of residence.